

Selected Leader Statements on International Efforts to Counter ISIL And Support the People of Iraq and Syria

Arab League Secretary General Nabil Al-Arabi: “Arab League chief Nabil Al-Arabi on Sunday called for a military and political confrontation with Islamic State jihadists and other militants he said threatened the existence of Arab states. ‘What is needed is a clear decision for a comprehensive confrontation, militarily and politically,’ Arabi said at a meeting of Arab foreign ministers, a day after he and US Secretary of State John Kerry discussed taking action against the jihadist group that controls swathes of Iraq and Syria... ‘What is happening in Iraq is that the terrorist organization not only threatens a state’s authority, but threatens its very existence and the existence of other states,’ he said.” [AFP, [9/7/14](#)]

Prime Minister Tony Abbott: “**The Evil And Exaltation In Evil That Was Yet Again On Display Today, Should Make All Of Us More Resolved Than Ever To Do Whatever We Reasonably Can To Disrupt, Degrade And If Possible Destroy This Movement.**” “‘The evil and exaltation in evil that was yet again on display today, should make all of us more resolved than ever to do whatever we reasonably can to disrupt, degrade and if possible destroy this movement,’ he said. He would not call the movement Islamic State because it was neither Islamic nor a state. ‘It is a death cult,’ Mr Abbott said.” [Sky News Australia, [9/14/14](#)]

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott: “I refuse to call this hideous movement ‘Islamic State’ because it’s not a state; it is a death cult. In good conscience ... Australia cannot leave the Iraqi people to face this horror, this pure evil, alone or ask others to do so in the name of human decency what we won’t do ourselves. It is right to do what we prudently and proportionately can to alleviate this suffering, to prevent its spread and to deal with its perpetrators.” [Prime Minister Tony Abbott Statement, [9/1/14](#)]

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop: “Australia endorses the terms of the presidential statement. It is an affirmation of Iraqi and international efforts to combat the terrorist threats posed by ISIL, and to provide humanitarian relief to prevent further suffering... ISIL is a threat to the fundamental values of the international community and an affront to our shared sense of humanity. Australia has announced our preparedness to do more to help Iraq and its partners in this fight. In cooperation with Iraq, we are deploying a military force to the region for possible involvement in a United States-led effort to support Iraq against ISIL. We are willing to provide strike, early warning, and air-to-air refueling aircraft and a special forces task group to advise and assist the Iraqi security forces.” [United Nations Security Council Holds A Meeting On Iraq, [9/19/14](#)]

Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz: “**The [U.S.] Air Strikes And The Weapons Deliveries Are Important In Order To Push Back The Terrorists.**” “The US air strikes against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) extremists in north Iraq and Syria, announced by US President Barack Obama on the weekend, was ‘important,’ Austria’s Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz said. In a radio interview, Kurz said: ‘The air strikes and the weapons deliveries are important in order to push back the terrorists.’ Austria was a neutral country, and thus also ‘peace loving,’ said Kurz, but it was not naive, he added.” [KUNA, [9/16/14](#)]

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper: “Canada condemns the systematic campaign of persecution that is being perpetrated in the city of Mosul, Iraq, by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) ... The very notion of religious freedom is what ISIS is working to eradicate and what the Iraqi people and the international community cannot surrender.” [Prime Minister of Canada – Statement, [7/22/14](#)]

Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird: “Canada's facilitation of crucial airlifts is another demonstration of our support for Iraq at this critical time. The threat posed by ISIL requires a firm response from the international community and Canada is committed to playing its part.” [Government of Canada – Press Release, [9/15/14](#)]

Czech Foreign Minister Lubomír Zaorálek: “We will need a broader international alliance. We need a coordinated effective approach. Let us work on that... We are prepared to offer the training of civil defense forces and integrated rescue system in Iraqi Kurdistan and are looking for further ways how to improve the ability of Iraqi security forces and to support the democratic process.” [Remarks at International Conference on Iraq in Paris, [9/15/14](#)]

Egypt Grand Mufti Dr. Shawqi Allam: “An extremist and bloody group such as this poses a danger to Islam and Muslims, tarnishing its image as well as shedding blood and spreading corruption.” [Reuters, [8/12/14](#)]

President François Hollande: “This conference has a single goal: to lend the new Iraqi authorities the political support necessary for them to combat a major threat, which is called Daesh [ISIL] and poses a major risk to Iraq, the Middle East region and the world... So the Iraqis’ fight against the terrorists is also ours. And we must commit ourselves together – that’s the purpose of this conference – alongside the Iraqi authorities, clearly, steadfastly and strongly. And there’s no time to lose.” [International Conference on Peace and Security – Opening speech by François Hollande, [9/15/14](#)]

French President François Hollande: “Are we going to participate in a coalition at the request of Iraqi authorities, in the respect of international law, to fight this terrorist group? The response is yes.” [Reuters, [9/5/14](#)]

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius: “Last week, Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius... said: ‘This is a terrorist group and not a state. I do not recommend using the term Islamic State because it blurs the lines between Islam, Muslims and Islamists. The Arabs call it ‘Daesh’ and I will be calling them the ‘Daesh cutthroats.’ His first press release using the name was issued on Monday.” [France24, [9/17/14](#)]

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius: “Fabius said in a speech in Paris that ‘we will participate, if necessary, in military air action’ in Iraq, according to a text provided by the French Foreign Ministry... [T]he determination of the Daesh butchers is strong. Ours must be even stronger.” [Associated Press, [9/10/14](#)]

Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja: “ISIS has turned out to be perhaps the most ruthless terrorist organisation of our time. It has committed outright genocide or at least acts

similar to a genocide...Taking action against it was absolutely inevitable.” [Helsinki Times, [8/12/14](#)]

Georgian Defence Minister Irakli Alasania: “We fully support what the United States is doing to eradicate these barbarians. And we have developed quite an institutional building experience that will help probably the Iraqis to put together their own armed forces. Training, exercises, these are the things that can come to our mind ... trying to achieve, I think, Georgia continuing role, supportive role in that and we can also discuss further in our security cabinet how best we can support the allies.” [Joint Press Availability with Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, [9/7/14](#)]

German Chancellor Angela Merkel: “The far-reaching destabilisation of an entire region affects Germany and Europe ... Ladies and gentlemen, when terrorists take control of a vast territory to give themselves and other fanatics a base for their acts of terror, then the danger rises for us, then our security interests are affected.” [Reuters, [9/1/14](#)]

German Chancellor Angela Merkel: “We have the opportunity to save lives and stop the further spread of mass murder in Iraq ... We have the chance to prevent terrorists from creating another safe haven for themselves. We must take this chance.” [AFP, [9/1/14](#)]

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier: “...we have to challenge the notion that ISIS is somehow unstoppable ... We have to push them back. We have to challenge their legitimacy in the eyes of radical Muslims and that process has begun with many Islamic scholars speaking out against the ideology that they profess. ... And we have to challenge them militarily. And as I said earlier, we will look very carefully at the US-led plan and we will look at how the UK can best contribute to that plan, ruling nothing out at this stage.” [Al-Akhbar, [9/11/14](#)]

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono: “We do not tolerate it, we forbid ISIS in Indonesia... This is a new wake-up call to international leaders all over the world, including Islamic leaders... All leaders must review how to combat extremism. Changing paradigms on both sides are needed – how the West perceives Islam and how Islam perceives the West... The philosophy of ISIS stands against the fundamental values we embrace in Indonesia.” [AFP, [8/21/14](#)]

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi: “Speaking before parliament, [Iraqi Prime Minister Haider] Al-Abadi vowed to ‘back the military operations in all the areas of confrontation against the armed gangs and the forces of terrorism and ensuring their continuation till victory is achieved.’” [AP, [9/8/14](#)]

Iraqi President Fuad Masum: “**We Must Not Allow Them To Have Sanctuaries ... We Must Pursue Them Wherever They Are.**” “President Fuad Masum of Iraq urged world powers on Monday to take the fight against the Sunni militants who have occupied much of his country to neighboring Syria. ‘We must not allow them to have sanctuaries,’ Mr. Masum said at the opening of an international conference on helping Iraq respond to the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, or ISIS. ‘We must pursue them wherever they are.’” [New York Times, [9/15/14](#)]

Iraqi Foreign Affairs Minister Abraham Al-Jaafari: “Iraq reaffirms its position to face up to terrorism as an international scourge that should be eliminated. It is extremely important for coordination and cooperation amongst all parties to take place. The influx of terrorist fighters from all over the world to establish this state of ISIS is a great danger not only to Iraq and Syria but to the entire region. Fighting those terrorists in Iraq, Mr. President, and sparing the Iraqi people their evils is in the interest of the entire world... We believe that the main responsibility to fight DASH and ISIS and other terrorist organizations on our territory is our responsibility, and the responsibility of the Iraqi armed forces and the peshmerga forces and the national guard as well. However, aerial support requires assistance by friendly nations.” [United Nations Security Council Holds A Meeting On Iraq, [9/19/14](#)]

Iraqi Human Rights Minister Mohammed Shia’ Al-Sudani: “‘We are facing a terrorist monster,’ Iraqi Human Rights Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani told the [UN Human Rights Council], decrying acts ‘equivalent to genocide and crimes against humanity.’” [AFP, [9/1/14](#)]

Italian Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini: “...Italy Has Decided To Send Arms, Munitions, And Above All Material For Humanitarian Support, Which Is A Priority... We Are All Agreed On The Need To Act Together, On The Sense Of Urgency: Act Quickly, Act Together.” “Italy has decided to send arms, munitions, and above all material for humanitarian support, which is a priority ... We are all agreed on the need to act together, on the sense of urgency: act quickly, act together.” [ANSA, [9/15/14](#)]

Italian Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti: “Defence Minister Roberta Pinotti said ISIS represents a ‘new terrorist threat’ not just for Iraq and Syria but also for Europe. Pinotti stressed the need to ‘use all means available to contain and overcome this threat.’” [ANSA Rome, [9/9/14](#)]

King Abdullah II Of Jordan: “The crisis in Syria has shown that transnational terrorists have no regards for borders as well as the challenge that we face when those terrorist organisations, or those extremists, return back to their host countries. Obviously, we have seen that effect in Iraq also. So, these are part of the discussions we will have today.” [Jordan Times, [6/24/14](#)]

Jordanian Foreign Affairs Minister Nasser Judeh: “Today, the world is facing an imminent danger. This is an unprecedented danger, with its savagery and its capacity to bleed society, to take advantage of political and security vacuums, and to leverage problems of national unity within states for their own purposes, for political reasons, or due to disenfranchisement or polarization of religion or otherwise in order to use their own military and economic situation, and they have the organization we know today... [W]e support the idea of a Security Council meeting that will be presided over by President Barack Obama on foreign combatants, and we further endorse the initiative of Bahrain to organize a conference to tackle the issue of financing sources for terrorism. We also welcome the statement, the presidential statement that was adopted by the Security Council.” [United Nations Security Council Holds A Meeting On Iraq, [9/19/14](#)]

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah Khaled Al Sabah: “We denounce vehemently the practices of those who use Islam as a pretext to kill and displace en masse Iraqis and Syrians.” [AFP, [8/30/14](#)]

Latvian President Andris Bērziņš: “We express our support and solidarity with the US in their fight with terrorists in Iraq and elsewhere.” [President Of Latvia – Release, [9/3/14](#)]

Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil: “‘Lebanon has politically participated in this coalition because it is fighting ISIS on its land, and we are in heart of the battle,’ Bassil told a crowd from the Lebanese community in Los Angeles. ‘Lebanon takes and does not give, because we do not own weapons or jets to contribute with in the attacks on ISIS.’” [The Daily Star, [9/21/14](#)]

Luxembourg Minister Of Foreign Affairs Jean Asselborn: “We support the commitment of the coalition launched by the United States at the request of the Iraqi authorities and with the active support of the countries of the region. We must also step up our efforts terms of humanitarian assistance and for protections of civilians. We must strengthen the actions of the United Nations to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.” [United Nations Security Council Holds A Meeting On Iraq, [9/19/14](#)]

Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak: “The actions of the Islamic State (IS) militants in Syria and Iraq run counter to our faith, our culture, and our common humanity. They are against the teachings of the Prophet, a man of peace and moderation; and against Islamic law, which prizes the protection of life above all.... We deplore those responsible and call on the international community to act in concert to prevent further violence.” [The Star, [8/28/14](#)]

Maldivian Foreign Minister Dunya Maumoon: “The Maldives strongly condemns the crimes committed against innocent civilians by the organization which identifies itself as the ‘Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant’ or the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. (ISIL or ISIS).IS is using the veil of religion as a pretext for inflicting terror, and committing violations of human rights. Their philosophy blatantly violates the fundamental principles of peace, tolerance and unity which are advocated by Islam, and their actions have tarnished the world’s perception of our great religion. A religion of peace and tolerance.” [Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Republic of Maldives, [8/27/14](#)]

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen: “I encourage all Iraqi political leaders to stand behind the new government to ensure it addresses the legitimate interests and aspirations of all Iraqis. Their support will be essential to defeat the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which poses a grave threat to the Iraqi people, to the wider region, and to our nations. At the NATO Summit in Wales, we reaffirmed our commitment to the NATO-Iraq partnership. Should the Iraqi government request it, we stand ready to consider measures within the framework of the Alliance’s Defence Capacity Building initiative to assist Iraq in its efforts to build more effective security forces.” [NATO, [9/9/14](#)]

Qatari Foreign Minister Khaled al-Attiyah: “Qatar does not support extremist groups, including ISIS, in any way. We are repelled by their views, their violent methods and their ambitions...The vision of extremist groups for the region is one that we have not, nor will ever, support in any way.” [Reuters, [8/23/14](#)]

King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Of Saudi Arabia: “If neglected I’m sure they [terrorists] will reach Europe in a month and America in another month ... The evils of terrorism must be fought with force, reason and speed.” [Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, [8/30/14](#)]

Grand Mufti Of Saudi Arabia Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Sheikh: “Young people should not let themselves be influenced by calls for jihad ... on perverted principles... It is a great misfortune that our youths are being exploited to fuel sedition.” [AFP, [8/28/14](#)]

Grand Mufti Of Saudi Arabia Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Sheikh: “Extremist and militant ideas and terrorism which spread decay on Earth, destroying human civilisation, are not in any way part of Islam, but are enemy number one of Islam, and Muslims are their first victims.” [Reuters, [8/19/14](#)]

U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron: “...the alliance was clear about the scale of the threat from Islamist extremism. And we agreed we must use all the instruments at our disposal, humanitarian, diplomatic and military, to squeeze this barbaric terrorist organization out of existence ... The fight against ISIL must be led by the Iraqis themselves, but we will continue to encourage countries in the region to support this effort and to engage allies across the world.” [Prime Minister Cameron Remarks at NATO Summit, [9/5/14](#)]

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: “The people of Iraq — all Iraqi people — need security. Yet, the poison of hatred and brutality is spreading. The so-called ‘Islamic State,’ IS, is a threat to Iraq, Syria and the region. I am profoundly dismayed by its barbaric acts, including accounts of summary executions, boys forcibly taken from their homes to fight, and girls abducted or trafficked as sex slaves.” [United Nations, [8/12/14](#)]

Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Iyad Ameen Madani: “None of the [Islamic State's] acts or principles align with the tolerant teachings of Islam.” [World Bulletin, [8/26/14](#)]

Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Iyad Ameen Madani: “The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Iyad Ameen Madani condemned what the terrorist group, ‘The Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS)’ is committing against innocent Christian Iraqi citizens in Mosul and Nineveh including forced deportation under the threat of execution; thus further tearing apart the social fabric of the Iraqi people. The Secretary General added that this forced displacement is a crime that cannot be tolerated; and that the practices of ISIS have nothing to do with Islam and its principles that call for justice, kindness, fairness, freedom of faith and coexistence.” [Organization of Islamic Cooperation, [7/21/14](#)]